

City of Norfolk  
Virginia

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the mental health of our citizens is essential to the continued well-being and vitality of our families, businesses, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, mental health issues affect parents, sisters, brothers and co-workers – all of the people in our lives; and

**WHEREAS**, people with mental illnesses are more likely to recover if given the necessary services and support in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, only one out of two people with a serious form of mental illness seeks treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, stigma and fear of discrimination keep many who would benefit from mental health services from seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, greater public awareness about mental illnesses can change negative attitudes and behaviors toward people with mental illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 observance of Mental Health Awareness Month will help raise awareness of the importance of mental health and the stigma people with mental illness face, while delivering the message that, with proper treatment, recovery is possible.

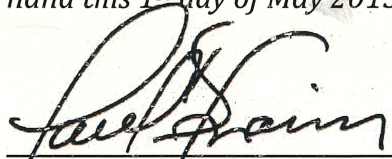
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PAUL D. FRAM, Mayor of the City of Norfolk, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2015 as**

## **MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

in the City of Norfolk and call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools commit to increasing awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses.

Given under my hand this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2015



  
PAUL D. FRAM, MAYOR